Centres in Vietnam, and an Agreement on Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Institute of Foreign Relations of Vietnam were signed.

Bringing Back the Criminals from Golf Countries

2361. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are Government's plans to nab notorious criminals who have taken shelter in different Gulf countries in the recent years;

(b) at what level Government have taken up the negotiations with the concerned countries in this regard;

(c) whether the negotiations have been completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when all the formalities would be completed in order to bring the criminals back to our country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) (i) Government makes every effort to bring back to India fugitive criminals, who have taken shelter in foreign countries including Gulf Countries. If any fugitive criminal is suspected to have absconded to a foreign country, a request for search and arrest of such wanted fugitive criminal is made by the concerned State/Union Territory/Central Investigating Agency to the Interpol Wing of CBI. CBI (Interpol) forwards such requests, along with necessary documents, to the Interpol Secretariat General (IPSG) for issuance of Red Corner Notices (RCN) against the wanted fugitives.

(ii) On receipt of information regarding the arrest/detention of the wanted fugitive criminal by a member country of the Interpol, the concerned investigating agency is requested by CBI (Interpol) to prepare extradition documents for extradition of the fugitive criminal to India. The extradition request is then forwarded to the Government of the concerned country through diplomatic channels.

(b) to (d) (i) India has signed Extradion Treaties with 11 countries including UAE among the Gulf countries. The absence of Extradition Treaty/arrangement is, however, nor a technical bar for making a request for extradition.

(ii) Any specific request for extration of fugitive criminals, suspected to be in any foreign country including Gulf com, ries, is pursued by our Missions abroad with the local authorities at the appropriate levels. The normal procedure for extradition involves both an administrative and judicial process in the requested country as per the local laws and there is no time limit for completion for this process.

Posting of Passport Offices Employees Abroad

2362. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from the employees of Passport Offices for their posting in the Indian Missions abroad; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard alongwith reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) While there is a demand from the employees of the Passport Offices for postings in Indian Missions abroad, postings are not given to these employees since there are no posts in Indian Missions abroad borne on the strength of Central Passport Organisation.

Strategic Alliance Between India, Russia and China

2363. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following months of U.S. led NATO bombings on Yugoslavia and the bombing of Chinese Embassy in Belgrade in May this year, any moves were made to forge a strategic alliance between India, Russia and China; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard indicating the outcome of bilateral or trilateral talks, if any, held in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Our relations with the Russian Federation are time-tested and characterised by continuity, trust and mutual under-